

in exactly the spirit that Lincoln would have shown if Lincoln had acted in such fashion.

"I have a perfect horror of words that are not backed up by deeds. I have a perfect horror of denunciation that ends in froth. All denunciations of Germany, all ardent expressions of sympathy for the Allies amount to precisely and exactly nothing if we are right in preserving a complete political neutrality between right and wrong. If Wilson is not wrong in his action, or rather inaction, about the *Lusitania* and Belgium, then wise and proper thing for our people is to keep their mouths shut about both deeds. The loose tongue and the unready hand make a poor combination. We are justified in denouncing the action of Germany only if we make it clearly evident that Wilson has shamelessly and scandalously misinterpreted us. I don't think that the American people believe that he has misrepresented us; I think they are behind him, I think they are behind him largely because their leaders have felt that in this crisis the easy thing to do was to minister to our angered souls by words of frothy denunciation and minister to our soft bodies by taking precious good care that there was no chance of our having to turn these words into deeds/'

A letter that he wrote on August 7, 1915, to Baron Bosen, former Russian Ambassador at Washington and one of the Russian envoys to the Portsmouth Peace Conference, is worthy of record as containing an outline of

what he would
have done to bring the war to a close had he
been President when Germany invaded Belgium in 1914.
Baron Kosen
had sent to him a copy of a published
interview with him-
self in which he had declared that it was "in
the interest of
all concerned to bring the war to conclusion
as soon as
possible," and had added:

"The surest way of reaching such a result
would be to
bring about a general coalition such as
crushed the power
of the first Napoleon, still leaving France intact
and an hon-
ored member of the family of nations. Failing
this, how-